Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 06521 101000Z

11
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03

XMB-02 AID-05 /055 W
---------- 125484
R 091539Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 105
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 6521

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, NI
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NIGERIA AIRWAYS AND PANAM

1. LOCAL PANAM REP PETER LEGRO HAS HEARD RUMOR THAT ITS OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA MAY BE THREATENED BY AGITATION ON PART OF NIGERIA AIRWAYS (WT) CHAIRMAN FRANCIS OBI.

2. ACCORDING TO RUMOR, OBI IS SEEKING TO FINANCE ACQUISITION OF THREE BOEING 747-SB'S IN U.S., BUT IS BEING FRUSTRATED BY UNNAMED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE REJECTED NIGERIA AIRWAYS AS BAD CREDIT RISK. IN HIS IRE AT BEING TREATED RUDELY IN U.S., SO STORY GOES, HE INTENDS RETALIATE AGAINST PANAM BY USING HIS INFLUENCE TO REDUCE NUMBER OF FREQUENCIES THROUGH LAGOS.

3. COMMENT: ROMOR STRIKES US AS FAR-FETCHED. NO ONE HAS APPROACHED LEGRO DIRECTLY YET, AND AMBASSY HAS HEARD OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 06521 101000Z

NO INITIATIVES BY OBI EITHER TO ACQUIRE B-747'S OR TO SEEK

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

FINANCING IN U.S. WT'S STATED POLICY IS TO EXPAND OPERATIONS NOT ON LONG RANGE BUT ON DOMESTIC AND WEST AFRICAN ROUTES AT LEAST OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. AIRLINE HAS PLACED ORDER FOR SEVER FOKKER F-28'S TO THIS END AND IS AWAITING DELIVERY. THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THIRD PLAN (1975-80) FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION OF WIDE-BODIED JETS AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF SUCH A MOVE.

4. ON OTHER HAND, AGITATION OF THIS SORT, THOUGH PROBABLY CONTAINING LARGE DOSE OF BLUFF, IS IN CHARACTER WITH CHAIRMAN OBI. ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER IS HIS RECENT DESIGNATION AS PERMANENT SECRETARY OF NEW MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, WHERE HE WILL PRESUMABLY GIVE UP HIS POST AT WT CHAIRMAN BUT WILL BE IN EVEN BETTER POSITION TO PURSUE OLD GRUDGES IF SO INCLINED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SEES NO POINT IN TAKING ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME, AND LEGRO AGREES. BUT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER BEOING IS INDEED NEGOTIATING SALE OF 747'S TO WT AND WHETHER PROBLEMS OF FINANCING HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED. MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO CHECK WHETHER EXIMBANK HAS BEEN APPROACHED. EASUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRLINES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS06521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750238-0445
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750773/aaaacnkn.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: NIGERIA AIRWAYS AND PANAM
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, NI, NIGERIAN AIRWAYS, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006